

tradition have developed a non-partisan public service; employee tenure is unaffected by changes in government. The only direct contact public servants have with Parliament occurs when they are called as witnesses before parliamentary committees; they do not, by convention, express opinions on public policy but usually appear as experts and to explain existing policy. Public servants who head agencies such as the Public Service Commission, the office of the Auditor General, the office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, the Library of Parliament or the office of the Chief Electoral Officer are responsible directly to Parliament. They are not subject to direction by the government on matters of policy and may appear before parliamentary committees to explain the policies of their agencies.

Growth in number, variety and complexity of the demands placed on the government requires it not only to adjust its policies but to make changes in the organization of the public service so that required policies can be implemented. Major reorganizations of the public service were authorized by a series of government organization acts in 1966, 1969, 1970, 1976, 1979 and 1982.

19.2 The executive

19.2.1 The Crown

The Sovereign. Since Confederation, Canada has had six sovereigns: Victoria, Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI and Elizabeth II. The present sovereign is not only Queen of Canada but is also head of state of other countries in the Commonwealth as well as being the formal head of the Commonwealth. Her title for Canada was approved by Parliament and established by a royal proclamation on May 28, 1953: Elizabeth the Second, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and her other realms and territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

From time to time the Queen personally discharges the functions of the Crown in Canada, such as the appointment of the Governor General, which Her Majesty does on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of Canada. During a royal visit, the Queen may participate in ceremonies normally carried out in her name by the Governor General, such as the opening of Parliament or the granting of a general amnesty.

The Governor General is the representative of the Crown in Canada. The Right Honourable Jeanne Sauv , the 23rd Governor General since Confederation and Canada's first woman Governor

General, was appointed by Queen Elizabeth on December 23, 1983 and took office on May 14, 1984. Constitutionally, the Queen of Canada is the Canadian head of state but the Governor General fulfils her role on her behalf. The letters patent revised and issued under the Great Seal of Canada on October 1, 1947 authorized and empowered the Governor General, on the advice of the Canadian ministers to exercise all powers and authorities lawfully belonging to the Sovereign in respect of Canada.

Following are the Governors General of Canada since Confederation, with dates of assumption of office:

The Viscount Monck of Ballytramon, July 1, 1867
The Baron Lisgar of Lisgar and Bailieborough, February 2, 1869

The Earl of Dufferin, June 25, 1872

The Marquis of Lorne, November 25, 1878

The Marquis of Lansdowne, October 23, 1883

The Baron Stanley of Preston, June 11, 1888

The Earl of Aberdeen, September 18, 1893

The Earl of Minto, November 12, 1898

The Earl Grey, December 10, 1904

Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Connaught, October 13, 1911

The Duke of Devonshire, November 11, 1916

General The Baron Byng of Vimy, August 11, 1921

The Viscount Willingdon of Raton, October 2, 1926

The Earl of Bessborough, April 4, 1931

The Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, November 2, 1935

Major General The Earl of Athlone, June 21, 1940

Field Marshal The Viscount Alexander of Tunis, April 12, 1946

The Right Honourable Vincent Massey, February 28, 1952

General The Right Honourable Georges P. Vanier, September 15, 1959

The Right Honourable Roland Michener, April 17, 1967

The Right Honourable Jules L ger, January 14, 1974

The Right Honourable Edward Schreyer, January 21, 1979

The Right Honourable Jeanne Sauv , May 14, 1984.

One of the most important responsibilities of the Governor General is to ensure that the country always has a government. If the office of the Prime Minister becomes vacant because of death or resignation, the Governor General must see that it is filled and that a new government is formed.

As the Queen's representative, the Governor General summons, prorogues and dissolves